

Appl. No. 10/750,609  
Amendt. dated Oct. 5, 2006  
Reply to Final Office Action of July 5, 2006

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Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Please cancel claims 9 - 14.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (previously presented): A fuel cell (12) for generating electrical current from first and second reactant streams, comprising:

a. a membrane electrode assembly (46);

b. a first reactant flow field (80) secured adjacent a surface selected from the group consisting of a first surface (48) and a second surface (50) of the membrane electrode assembly (46) for directing flow of a first reactant adjacent the selected surface (48, 50) of the assembly (46);

c. wherein the first reactant flow field (80) defines a plurality of two-pass circuits (82, 84, 86, 88), each two-pass circuit being in fluid communication with a first reactant inlet (90) for directing the first reactant into the fuel cell (12), and in fluid communication with a first reactant outlet (92) for directing the first reactant out of the fuel cell (12); and,

d. wherein the reactant flow field (80) defines a common turn-around (96) in fluid communication with each two-pass circuit (82, 84, 86, 88), and the common turn-

Appl. No. 10/750,609

Amendt. dated Oct. 5, 2006

Reply to Final Office Action of July 5, 2006

25           around (96) being defined between the first reactant inlet (90) and the first reactant outlet (92) so that the first reactant flowing from the first reactant inlet (90) to the first reactant outlet (92) passes through the common turn-around (96) and mixes within the common turn around (96) with the first reactant passing through the other of the plurality of two-pass circuits (84, 86, 88).

5           Claim 2 (original)   The fuel cell (12) of claim 1, wherein each two-pass circuit (82, 84, 86, 88) defines a width across the two-pass circuit (82), when divided by a cross-flow length (114) of the first reactant flow field, that is greater than 0.1 and less than 0.5, wherein the width across each two-pass circuit (82) is a shortest distance across the two-pass circuit (82) in a direction perpendicular to flow of the first reactant through the two-pass circuit (82), and the cross-flow length (114) of the first reactant flow field (80) is a shortest distance across the first reactant flow field (80) in a direction perpendicular to flow of the first reactant through the flow field (80).  
10

5           Claim 3 (original)   The fuel cell (12) of claim 1, wherein the first reactant flow field (80) is a cathode flow field (20) for directing flow of an oxygen containing oxidant reactant adjacent the selected surface (48) of the membrane electrode assembly.

Appl. No. 10/750,609

Amendt. dated Oct. 5, 2006

Reply to Final Office Action of July 5, 2006

5 Claim 4 (original) The fuel cell (12) of claim 1, wherein the first reactant flow field (80) is an anode flow field (28) for directing flow of a hydrogen containing reducing fluid adjacent the selected surface (50) of the membrane electrode assembly.

5 Claim 5 (previously presented) The fuel cell (12) of claim 1, further comprising a second reactant flow field (28) secured adjacent the first or second surface (48, 50) for directing flow of a second reactant adjacent the first or second surface (48, 50), wherein the second reactant flow field (28) defines a plurality of two-pass circuits (82, 84, 86, 88), each two-pass circuit being in fluid communication with a reactant inlet (90) for directing the second reactant into the fuel cell (12), and in fluid communication with a reactant outlet (92) for directing the second reactant out of the fuel cell (12).

5 Claim 6 (original) The fuel cell (12) of claim 1, wherein the first reactant flow field (80) is a cathode flow field (20), the number of two-pass circuits (82, 84, 86, 88) in each reactant flow field is greater than or equal to 2 and less than 10, a width across a two-pass circuit (82) divided by a parallel-flow length of the two-pass circuit (82) is greater than 0.3 and less than 1.0, wherein the parallel-flow length of the two-pass circuit (82) is one-half of a shortest distance along the two-pass circuit (82) from a point of entry of the reactant stream into the circuit (82) to a point of exit of the reactant stream from

Appl. No. 10/750,609

Amendt. dated Oct. 5, 2006

Reply to Final Office Action of July 5, 2006

the circuit (82) in a direction parallel to flow of the stream through the circuit (82).

Claim 7 (previously presented) A method of managing water within a fuel cell (12) comprising the steps of:

- 5 a. securing a first reactant flow field (80) within a fuel cell (12) adjacent a surface of a membrane electrode assembly (46) selected from the group consisting of a first surface (48) and a second surface (50) of the assembly (46); and,
- 10 b. directing a first reactant to flow through a plurality of two-pass circuits (82, 84, 86, 88) defined within the first reactant flow field (80); and,
- 15 c. directing the first reactant to flow from reactant inlets (90) of the two-pass circuits (82, 84, 86, 88) through a common turn-around (96) defined within the reactant flow field (80), then mixing the first reactants from the reactant inlets (90) within the common turn-around (96), and then directing the first reactant to flow from the common turn-around (96) through reactant outlets (92) of the two-pass circuits (82, 84, 20 86, 88.

Claim 8 (currently amended) A fuel cell (12) for generating electrical current from first and second reactant streams, comprising:

- a. a membrane electrode assembly (46);

Appl. No. 10/750,609

Amendt. dated Oct. 5, 2006

Reply to Final Office Action of July 5, 2006

- 5           b.    a first reactant flow field (80) secured adjacent a  
              surface selected from the group consisting of a first  
              surface (48) and a second surface (50) of the membrane  
              electrode assembly (46) for directing flow of a first  
10            reactant adjacent the selected surface (48, 50) of the  
              assembly (46); and,
- c.    wherein the first reactant flow field (80) defines a  
              plurality of two-pass circuits (82, 84, 86, 88)  
              defined within porous layers of the flow field (80),  
              each two-pass circuit being in fluid communication  
15            with a first reactant inlet (90) for directing the  
              first reactant into the fuel cell (12), and in fluid  
              communication with a first reactant outlet (92) for  
              directing the first reactant out of the fuel cell  
              (12); and,
- 20           d.    wherein the first reactant flow field (80) defines a  
              common turn-around (96) in fluid communication with  
              each two-pass circuit (82, 84, 86, 88), and the common  
              turn-around (96) being defined between the first  
              reactant inlet (90) and the first reactant outlet (92)  
25            so that the first reactant flowing from the first  
              reactant inlet (90) to the first reactant outlet (92)  
              passes through the common turn-around (96) and mixes  
              within the common turn around (96) with the first  
              reactant passing through the other of the plurality of  
30            two-pass circuits (84, 86, 88).

Claim 9 (canceled)

Claim 10 (canceled)

Appl. No. 10/750,609

Amendt. dated Oct. 5, 2006

Reply to Final Office Action of July 5, 2006

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Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (canceled)

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (canceled)

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